

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3545

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PASS AGRIC FOR MUSSMAN/APHIS, HUME AND RIESZ/FAS.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: VINCENT/MUSSMAN LETTER OF MAY 16.

1. DURING BERGLAND/WHELAN TALKS ON MAY 18, MIN. WHELAN STATED CANADA'S POSITION ON TESTING FOR PBB RESIDUE WAS A MATTER OF CANADIAN LAW WHICH PROVIDES FOR ZERO TOLERANCE. HE ALSO ADDED THAT HE HAD ALREADY REFUSED TO MEET WITH STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON SUCH ISSUES.

2. DR. MCGOWAN, ASST. DEPUTY MIN. FOR VETERINARY SERVICES STATED THAT BOTH NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA STATE DEPTS. OF AGRIC. WERE REQUESTING MEETINGS WITH CANADIAN FEDERAL OFFICIALS ON BRUCELLOSIS WHICH PRESENTED AN AWKWARD SITUATION. SEC. BERGLAND STATED THAT IN THE CASE OF BRUCELLOSIS, FEDERAL REGULATIONS DO NOT PRE-EMPT THOSE OF NEW YORK. HOWEVER, USDA WOULD ADVISE THESE STATES THAT ANY REPRESENTATIONS TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WERE TO BE MADE THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

3. IN CONSIDERING THE REQUEST TO SET UP A MEETING FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE, TO INCLUDE MICHIGAN REPS., WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EMBASSY VIEWS:

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A. IT IS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL THAT WHELAN WOULD EVEN CONSIDER ATTENDING;

B. ALL SENIOR A/C OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN A MANAGEMENT SEMINAR THAT WEEK;

C. IF USDA DECIDES THAT THERE IS MERIT IN REQUESTING SUCH

A MEETING, U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD BE HEADED AND LED BY SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIAL, PRESUMABLY FROM APHIS. AGATT SERIOUSLY DOUBTS THAT MEETING ALONG THE INFORMAL LINES INVOLVED IN THE FEBRUARY 18TH MEETING WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

D. CANADIANS WILL BE INTERESTED IN WHAT USDA HAS TO PROPOSE AND NOT IN MICHIGAN PROPOSALS. WHILE PROPOSED PBB FREE CERTIFICATE HAS APHIS APPROVAL, THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO A/C BECAUSE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY U.S. FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IS LACKING.

4. AGATT WILL BE AT USDA MORNING OF MAY 24 AND ALL DAY MAY
27. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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